



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

# Nonpoint Source Funding

## Considerations for Project Ranking

This document recommends elements Basin Advisory Groups might consider when reviewing and ranking Nonpoint Source project applications. The elements below are intended to provide consistency and transparency for use in thoughtful and objective project review, deliberation, and selection. This document will be available for Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs), project applicants, and others who may be interested in DEQ's priorities as they relate to funding projects that address nonpoint source pollution across the state of Idaho.

### *Nonpoint Source Funding Considerations for Project Ranking*

- Is there a clear water quality and funding need?
- Where is the project located in relationship to a 303(d) listed waterbody, identified water quality concern, Nitrate Priority Area (NPA), or other point of concern and does the project have a strong likelihood of improving water quality?
- What are the beneficial uses, pollutants, and approved TMDL(s) and or watershed plan(s) being addressed through implementation of the project?
- Is there an associated conservation plan, implementation plan, or other on-farm or watershed scale plan.
- Are there calculated Load Reduction Estimates (LRE) and are the expected costs reasonable in proportion to expected benefits.
- What is the expected lifespan of the project and is there reasonable assurance that the project will meet the expected lifespan? This would include plant maintenance (i.e. land sales, operation and maintenance costs, plant care and survivability etc.).
- Is this a shovel ready project with a reasonable implementation schedule and guaranteed match? Can they spend the amount of money they are asking for in a reasonable period of time?
- Has this applicant successfully completed a past 319 or State Ag BMP funded project? If so, was the project completed and money spent within the contract period, was the contract followed and work completed?
- Does the project propose to monitor BMP effectiveness and share the results with the public?
- Does the project include an educational outreach component to support long-term community support and stewardship?
- Does the application demonstrate community support for implementation of the project?

For additional information, contact  
Julia Achabal, Nonpoint Source Statewide Coordinator  
IDEQ, State Office  
1410 North Hilton, Boise, Idaho 83706  
(208) 373-0321  
[julia.achabal@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:julia.achabal@deq.idaho.gov)